

## — ARTIST LINE-UP —



### **Mike Miller & Friends**

*Featuring: Deborah Gardner (vocals), Josh Silver (piano) and Brandon Benson (drums)*

Mike started music with a plastic guitar from a local supermarket in 1966 in Toledo. Mike's dad played jazz records and unknowingly made him appreciate jazz. Mike studied piano at the Bach Conservatory of Music and played with local bands like The Hearts of Fire, Social Lubrication, The Jamm and many other groups. Currently playing at Amazing Grace Christian Center, Mike is an accomplished composer and producer, who plays several instruments: guitar, drums and piano. His social influences are Bob James, Tower of Power, Jeff Lorber to name a few.

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### **Sammy Deleon Y Orquesta**



Sammy Deleon's passion and love of Latin music immersed into a lifetime as a Salsa & Latin Jazz percussionist, band leader, and educator. Deleon developed a long-standing friendship with the late Tito Puente inspiring him to explore Latin Rhythms, and Afro Cuban music. Sammy has fronted his own band for 25+ years. Performance credits include the late Tito Puente, Tito Puente Jr., Hector Lavoe, El Gran Combo, Ismael Miranda, Tommy Olivencia, Richie Ray and Bobby Cruz, Poncho Sanchez, La India, Tito Rojas, Tony Vega, Luisito Carrion, Choco Orta, Ray De La Paz, and countless others. The most notable studio recordings are Impacto Nuevo, and the critically acclaimed Sammy Deleon y Su Orquesta with the snaking Contigo Y Sin Ti, and the Cuban dance classic Baila Que Baila. Deleon's flair has beckoned audiences throughout the United States – most notably Severance Hall, TRI-C Jazz Fest, Ohio Governors' Mansion, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Indians Ball Park, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, State Theatre, La Guarapachanga en Pinar del Río, Cuba. Sammy teaches and mentors aspiring percussionists in Latin Rhythm. His recognitions include proclamations, humanitarian and Best Latin Band awards.

In 2016, Sammy received the prestigious Latin Jazz Legend Award joining the ranks of Eddie Baccus, Greg Bandy, Kenny Davi, and Bob McKee. Deleon is loved for the joy he brings through his irresistible dance music. Plans to record are in the works, as he continues to expand his repertoire to include a label for young talented artists.



## Ramona Collins

Singer, songwriter, actress, educator, emcee former radio jazz personality and a past president of the former Toledo Jazz Society, Ramona Collins is a premier entertainer. Her shows have made her an audience favorite at clubs, concerts, and festivals wherever she goes. Audiences throughout the Midwest have known for quite some time this Toledo-based singer is one of the region's true treasures and best-kept secrets. Born in Toledo Ohio, Ramona was reared in Lansing Michigan by her jazz pianist/singer mother who encouraged her daughter to sing at an early age to combat her shyness.

Today anyone fortunate enough to witness the veteran performer at work will not detect a whit of shyness. Sultry, seasoned, witty and cool are words that come to mind when experiencing this engaging performer whose command of the stage and vast repertoire have helped her establish a solid rapport with club, concert and festival audiences wherever she appears. Although known primarily as a jazz singer, Ramona has opened for legends Jennifer Holiday, Gladys Knight and Patti Labelle. She is currently working on music for an original project.

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## Four80East

Four80East is a Toronto-based electro-jazz duo that's all about the groove. Drawing from their diverse musical influences, Rob DeBoer and Tony Grace have created a signature sound that combines electronic production with live instrumentation.

Since breaking out with their highly successful debut "The Album" in 1997, Four80East has been a mainstay on contemporary jazz radio, with eight studio albums and a double live album to their credit. They have scored several top-ten Billboard hits, including their most recent #1 in 2019 with Cinco Cinco Seis.

Although the band was born as a studio project, DeBoer and Grace have been able to transform their layered and captivating sonic productions into a high-energy live show, with the help of the many world-class musicians who join them on stage. They perform as a six-piece ensemble.



## Jeanette Harris & David P Stevens

**Jeanette Harris** has played major events from The Coombs River Bend Ranch Festival to festivals in Japan and London. She has performed as a side musician with Howard Hewett and Deniece Williams and has opened shows for greats ranging from smooth jazz stars Kirk Whalum, Najee and The Rippingtons to R&B stars Babyface, Phil Perry, KEM and singer/songwriter Teena Marie.

Multi-Billboard charting artist, **David P Stevens** has earned his place in contemporary jazz as a high energy, funky mainstay in the genre! The multi-talented guitarist, writer, producer and performer, has shared the stage with the likes of Gerald Albright, Nick Colionne, Najee, Alex Bugnon, Frank McComb, Norman Brown and several more, at exciting jazz festivals all over the world!

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## Jeff Lorber

Grammy Award-winning keyboardist-composer-producer Jeff Lorber has, over the course of 42 years and 24 albums, pioneered the post-fusion sound of contemporary jazz with his radio-friendly, groove-oriented instrumental music.

Stretching the envelope has been Lorber's strategy from the very beginning. Born in Philadelphia in 1952, Lorber began playing piano when he was just four years old. By his teen years, he had hooked up with several local R&B bands, but his tastes trended more toward jazz when he studied at Berklee College of Music.

By the late 1970s, Jeff Lorber became a prominent figure in the new movement known as jazz fusion – a marriage of traditional jazz with elements of rock, R&B, funk and other electrified sounds. Lorber and his band, the Jeff Lorber Fusion, first honed their craft in the Portland, Oregon, club scene and rapidly expanded their reach to a national and international audience via a combination of complex harmonies, unconventional time signatures and compelling rhythms.

In subsequent years, Lorber dropped the term “fusion” from his billing as the movement evolved into what is currently known as contemporary jazz. Still, he continued to explore the innovative, improvisational potential of grafting other musical forms to the jazz idiom.



# Toledo Jazz Week

August 7-11, 2023

A week-long celebration of live jazz,  
showcased at choice venues throughout the City of Toledo.

***All events leading up the Glass City JazzFest  
are free and open to the public.***

\* TBA: Jazz Artists & Performance Times

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Monday, August 7

**Peacock Cafe**

2007 Monroe St, Toledo, OH 43604

Tuesday, August 8

**The Toledo Spirits Company**

1301 N Summit St, Toledo, OH 43604

Wednesday, August 9

**The Bay Restaurant & Nightclub**

18 Main St, Toledo, OH 43605

Thursday, August 10

**Manhattan's Pub 'n Cheer**

1516 Adams St, Toledo, OH 43604

Friday, August 11

**Lucille's Jazz Lounge**

1447 N Summit St Suite C, Toledo, OH 43604